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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 9
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Greece,* Israel and Peru: revised draft resolution

Education and training on drug use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] according to which parties to the Convention shall give special attention to practicable measures for the prevention of abuse of drugs and for the early identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved and shall coordinate their efforts to those ends,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board, including as contained in paragraph 53 (a) of the report of the Board for 2012,[2] in which it recommended that, in order to improve the concerted actions by the international community to advance shared responsibilities in drug control, Governments should develop more effective practices to reduce illicit drug demand, focusing on education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and should devote greater attention to the basic requirement of preventing first use of drugs,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[2] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.1).

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Recognizing the urgent need for better training and education of those people who work in the area of treatment of drug dependence, so that they may gain an understanding of the problems relating to the misuse and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of the prevention of drug dependence, and through effective implementation of article 20 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3]

Recalling its resolution 48/7, on competencies required to address drug abuse, in which it recognized that developing human resources is an important element in countering the devastating impact of drug abuse,

Recognizing the major impact on public health, and the social and economic well-being of individuals and society at large, of dealing with drug use disorders as preventable and treatable medical conditions, and noting the absence of corresponding minimum standards for training on treating drug dependence,

Noting that scientific evidence from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime indicates that drug dependence is a preventable and treatable health disorder, resulting from a complex multifactorial interaction between repeated exposure to drugs and biological and environmental factors, and underlining that best results are achieved when a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach is adopted in order to respond to different needs,

Recognizing that multiple skills and scientific knowledge are necessary in order to effectively address drug use disorders with a comprehensive, balanced and scientific evidence-based approach,

Taking into account that integration of multidisciplinary training in the treatment of dependence may not be given appropriate consideration in some countries in the official training curricula for those providing relevant services to people affected by substance use disorders,

Stressing that training based on scientific evidence and education with supporting organizational structures, procedures and resources may improve success rates in prevention and treatment programmes,

Underlining the need to promote an innovative and integrated approach, based on interdisciplinary scientific evidence in the field of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in order to promote expertise in dealing with various forms of addiction,

Taking into consideration the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, according to which States should place appropriate emphasis on training policymakers, programme planners and practitioners in all aspects of the design, execution and evaluation of demand reduction strategies and programmes,

Bearing in mind that successful prevention, treatment and care may require valid methods, various approaches and evaluation, and that the availability of competent, skilled and experienced staff and professional competence requires continued research-based education and training,

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

1. *Invites* Member States, in accordance with domestic legal systems and national legislation, to further strengthen professional knowledge and skills for those working with, or intending to work with, people affected by substance use disorders by providing comprehensive scientific and evidence-based education and training programmes;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, where appropriate, to collaborate in the provision of evidence-based education and training programmes by providing all types of assistance, including but not limited to technical assistance, upon request, in order to improve their ability to attain this goal;

3. *Highlights* the importance of strengthening the capacity of competent and appropriately experienced trainers to deliver training for those working with, or intending to work with, people who are or might be affected by substance use disorders;

4. *Encourages* Member States to promote a comprehensive approach to the study of substance use disorders, from the substance, health and behaviour perspectives, in order to better understand and tackle the issue on the basis of scientific evidence and to ensure its reflection, as appropriate, in educational and training programmes;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to the development of such educational and training programmes, based on scientific evidence in areas such as medicine, psychology, education and the social sciences;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to further promote the quality and availability of education and training and to strengthen, where appropriate, intersectoral collaboration involving, inter alia, health and law enforcement professionals, as well as civil society, in accordance with domestic law and legal frameworks;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of continual quality assurance with regard to training, including its regular monitoring, evaluation and subsequent supervision by relevant certified professionals, working under the domestic law and legal framework and in accordance with applicable legislation and existing regulations;

8. *Encourages* Member States to share best practices in the field of education and training on drug use disorders and to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing the present resolution.